

# Rocky Mountain

Story by 2nd Lt. Virgil Magee



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**T**HE Department of Defense has a new resort destination available to service members and civilian employees looking for snow-filled winter recreation or summertime sports activities.

Rocky Mountain Blue, a partnership between U.S. Air Force Space Command, the U.S. Air Force Academy and Keystone Resorts in Keystone, Colo., opened Nov. 5. The facility offers a variety of discounts to active-duty and reserve-component service members, retirees, and DOD and non-appropriated fund civilians.

RMB is the first step in determining if there is a market for a government-owned resort in the Colorado area, a decision that will be made in two or three years.

Keystone's 1,749 acres are served by 22 ski lifts, including two high-speed, six-passenger gondolas and three high-speed, four-passenger chair lifts.

Located just 90 minutes west of Denver, RMB is focused on outdoor activities such as skiing, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, ice-skating and golf. But it also advertises itself as "a mountain experience unlike any other, a year-round resort with two bustling villages that offer lodging, shopping, restaurants, nightlife, events and much more."

"This is a good value for our members who want to have a good time in the Colorado outdoors," said Col. Dave Estill, Air Force Space Command's director of services.

Keystone includes three mountains with groomed terrain that will test skiers and

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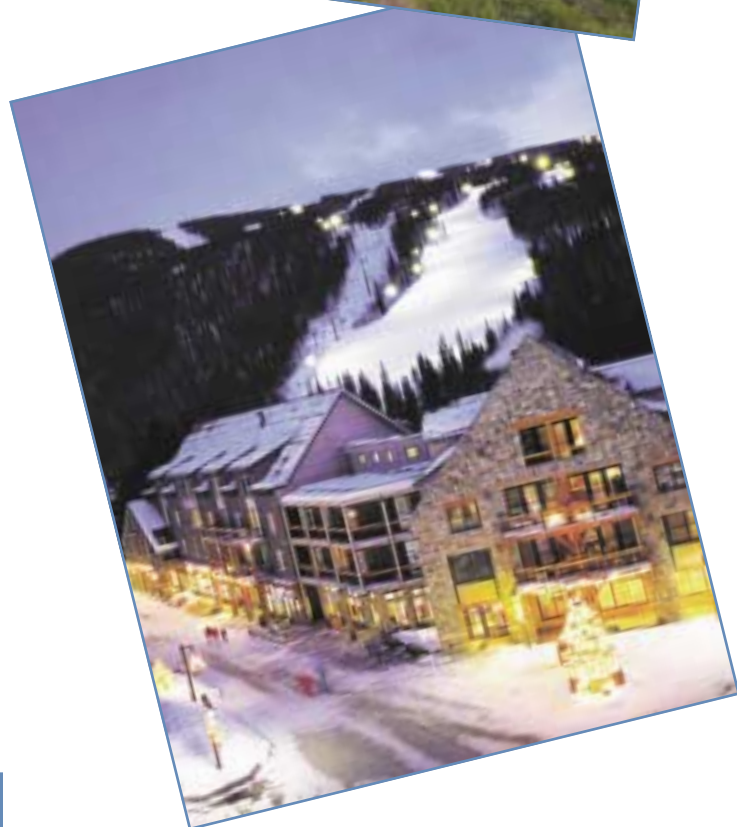


snowboarders of all levels and abilities. The premier trail, "North Peak," features several steep plunges that may be especially attractive to advanced skiers. But the resort also offers lessons for beginners — including one class for 3-year-olds.

The resort is home to the largest single-mountain night skiing experience in North America. Three lifts serve 288 acres of terrain until 8 p.m.

Visitors can also skate all day and evening on the five-acre Keystone Lake, the largest outdoor-maintained ice rink in the country.

Finally, for those who don't wish to indulge in snow sports, horse-drawn sleighs and stagecoaches take visitors for rides through the Snake River Valley to an authentic 1860s Old West cabin, where cowboys cook mouthwatering dinners over a campfire. □



To receive special discounts, DOD members must book their reservations through Colorado R and R, sales agent for Rocky Mountain Blue, on the Internet at [www.coloradorandr.com](http://www.coloradorandr.com).

For additional information about Rocky Mountain Blue, visit <http://rockymountainblue.com>.